

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The final Office Action of January 30, 2004 has been received and contents carefully reviewed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 22 and adds new claims 39 and 40. Claims 10-14, 19-21, 27-31 and 35 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Accordingly, claims 1-40 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 22 because of informalities. Applicant amended claim 22, incorporating the Examiner's suggestions. Again, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the instant application.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2; rejected claims 1-4, 6-7, 15, 22-24, 32-34, and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Young et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,441,873); rejected claims 8-9, 16-18, 25-26, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. in view of Applicant's Related Art Figure 5. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With regard to the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2, Applicant respectfully submits that "the center electrode" in line 9 has an antecedent basis, since line 6 of claim 5 recites "a center electrode below the slit". Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7 and 15 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a pixel electrode in one of the pixel regions on the first substrate, the pixel electrode having a slit therethrough and side edge portions, the side edge portions being bent." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-4, 6-7, and 15, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

Young et al. in lines 25-35, col. 6 discloses, “The pixel electrodes are then formed by depositing a layer of electrically conductive, light--reflective, material such as aluminium, an aluminium alloy, or silver over the substrate which covers the surface of the layer 40 and the sloping sidewalls of the tapering contact openings 47 *to contact electrically with the underlying drain extension layer 35 at each contact opening location*. This reflective layer is then photolithographically patterned to leave the array of discrete, mutually-spaced, pixel electrodes 45, *each of which is electrically connected with its respective underlying layer 35 via the plurality of contact openings*.” [emphasis added] In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that, as best understood, the reflected depressions 50 are part of the tapering contact holes 47 in Young et al., locating inside of the tapering contact holes 47. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Young et al. intends and discloses to cover a plurality of tapering contact holes 47 and reflected depressions 50 with pixel electrode 45, in order for the reflective mode TFT-LCD to work properly. In contrast, the pixel electrode is physically disconnected at the slit in the present application.

The rejection of claims 8-9, which depend from claim 1 is also traversed. These claims are rejected over the combination of Young et al. and Applicant’s Related Art Figure 5. Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Figure 5 do not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference, Young et al. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-9 are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 16-18 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 16 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 16 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a pixel electrode in one of the pixel regions on the first substrate, the pixel electrode having a slit therethrough and side edge portions, the side edge portions being bent.” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 and claims 17-18, which depend from claim 16, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 22-24 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 22 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 22 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a pixel electrode positioned on the second substrate in one of the pixel regions, opposing the common electrode, and including a slit therethrough and side

edge portions, the side edge portions being bent toward the first substrate.” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 and claims 23-24, which depend from claim 22, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 25-26, which depend from claim 22 is also traversed. These claims are rejected over the combination of Young et al. and Applicant’s Related Art Figure 5. Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Figure 5 do not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference, Young et al. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 25-26 are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 32-34 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 32 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 32 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a pixel electrode located on the inner surface of the second substrate in one of the pixel regions, the pixel electrode having a slit therethrough and further having a first portion a first distance from the common electrode and a second portion a second distance from the common electrode.” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 and claims 33-34, which depend from claim 32, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claim 38, which depend from claim 32 is also traversed. These claims are rejected over the combination of Young et al. and Applicant’s Related Art Figure 5. Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Figure 5 do not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference, Young et al. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 38 is allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Eric J. Nuss

Registration No.: 40,106
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorney for Applicant



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